THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) Yes, Sir. The National Technology Mission on Drinking Water is being implemented through Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Minimum Needs Programme (MNP). The Mission objective for the next 2 years is to cover nearly one lakh problem villages by March, 1990. The Mission has also undertaken 5 Sub-Missions on specific problem areas like Removal of Excess Iron, Desalination of water, Control of Fluorosis. Eradication of Guineaworm and Conservation of Water. 55 Mini Mission areas have also been selected for intensive effort. It is expected that the Mission will achieve the target of these one lakh problem villages in the remaining 2 years and also would be able to develop integrated approach and cost-effective technological packages in the Mini Mission areas.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) So far the Mission has spent Rs. 773.98 crores under MNP and ARWSP in 1986-87 and Rs. 504.75 crore (upto Dec. 1987) in 1987-88 Rs. 33.56 crores has been released for Mini Mission Projects in 1986-87 and 1987-88.

Request for central assistance to appoint labour inspectors

*257. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI:
SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various State Governments have recently requested the Central Government for assistance in respect of appointment of Labour Inspectors at the block level, to effectively check the violations of labour laws, especially the Minimum Wages Act and the Bonded Labour Act; and

(b) if so, what is Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Labour Ministers' Conference held on 20th May, 1987 emphasised that the enforcement machinery of the State Governments should be strengthened and upgraded with assistance from the Central Government. A recommendation was also made to improve the mobility of the enforcement staff. On the basis of discussion in the Regional Labour Ministers Conference of Southern, Eastern, Western and Northern regions, it was recommended that a fresh set of criteria for a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme for increasing the strength and mobility of the machinery should be worked out. In pursuance of these, a Working Group has been set up.

Agreement between the SAIL and the Orissa mining corporation to purchase Iron-ore and Manganese

*258. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement has recently been signed by the Steel Authority of India Limited with the Orissa Mining Corporation to buy iron-ore and manganese; and

(b) if so, what are the terms and conditions of the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) have entered into an agreement with M/s. Orissa Mining Corporation Limited (OMC) on 6-10-1987 for supply of manganese ore to its steel plants. However, no agreement has been concluded so far between SAIL and OMC for supply of iron ore.

(b) It will not be in the commercial interest of SAIL to divulge terms and conditions of the agreement.